



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 035394/0117

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nicolas VOUTE *et al.*

Title: SMALL DENSE MICROPOROUS SOLID SUPPORT MATERIALS,
THEIR PREPARATION, AND USE FOR PURIFICATION OF
LARGE MACROMOLECULES AND BIOPARTICLES

Appl. No.: 09/274,014

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Art Unit: 1723

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to issues raised in the Office Action mailed April 3, 2002, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks, and the declaration of Dr. Egisto Boschetti.

In the claims

Please enter the following amended versions of claims 1 and 6 into the record:

1. (Twice Amended) Dense mineral oxide solid supports comprising:

(a) a mineral oxide matrix having an external surface and pores, wherein the pores have a pore volume which is less than 30% of the total volume of the mineral oxide matrix, and

(b) an interactive polymer network which fills the pores and is coated on the surface of the mineral oxide matrix, so that subsequent interaction with macromolecules occurs on the external surface area of the support.

6. (Twice Amended) Dense mineral oxide solid supports comprising: